



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BLM Identifies Land Use Process for San Pedro Rock Quarry**

Albuquerque, NM – The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Albuquerque and Taos today unveiled that they will include the proposed San Pedro Rock Quarry project—a proposed gravel operation in the San Pedro Mountains area of southern Santa Fe County—in the Taos Resource Management Plan Amendment process.

After setting aside the original Environmental Assessment (EA) and producing another with more public involvement, the BLM collected a great deal of data from many sources and analyzed many issues. After looking at everything, BLM field managers believe the best management practice would be to examine this project in the Taos Resource Management Plan Amendment process. This approach will use sound science, take into account the growing complexities, draw on BLM’s years of experience and success, and reinforce the importance of working in cooperation with the many parties involved.

“The message is simple; after objectively looking at the issues involved, we don’t think this project fits with the complexity of an Environmental Assessment,” said Sam DesGeorges, Taos Field Office Manager. “It’s more suited to the land use process that we are now beginning.”

The land use planning process considers the effects of many uses of the public lands, such as recreation, energy development, livestock grazing, mining and fire management. It will also consider how public land uses can be integrated over a particular area.

“Our proposal was developed to find a balance between the needs of the community for the continued supply of rock material, the concerns of the neighbors about the quarry, and the safety of the mining operation,” said Albuquerque District Manager Edwin Singleton. “We truly appreciate all the input we received through the entire process so far.”

“The land use plan is a natural fit for this issue. It sounds like solid land management to me and that’s good for everyone involved,” said BLM New Mexico State Director Linda Rundell.

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Land use plans guide management actions on the public lands and establish goals and objectives for resource management. The Taos Resource Management Plan Amendment is expected to be completed by 2007.

For more information, about this project or the land use planning process please contact Sam DesGeorges, Taos Field Manager, at 505.758.8851.

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